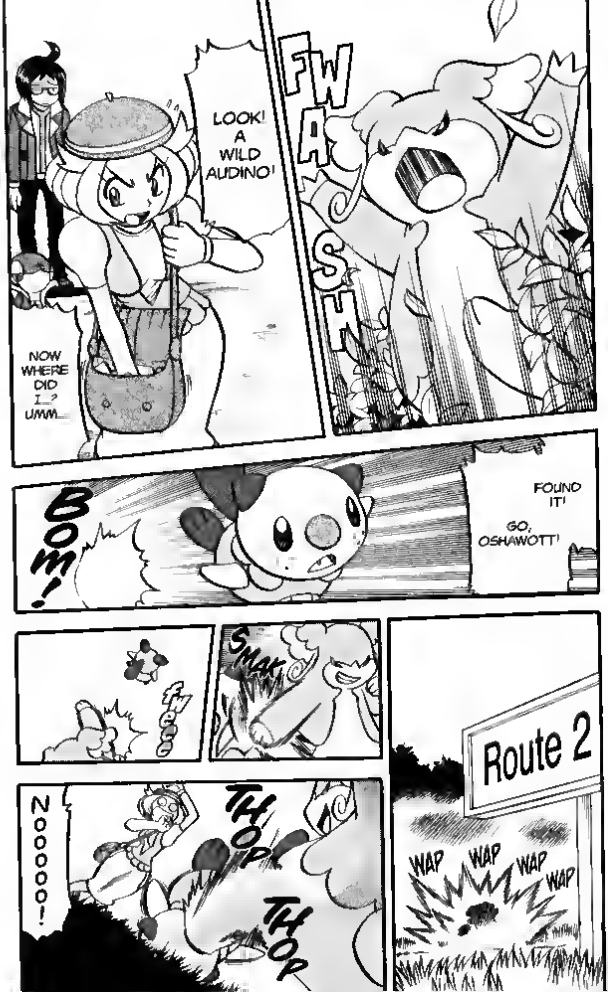
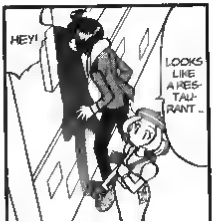
Adventure ⑨ Welcome to Striaton City!!


NOW WHERE DID I...? UMM...
LOOK! A WILD AUDINO!
FWASH
FOUND IT!
GO, OSHAWOTT!
BOW!
SMAK
Route 2
WAP
WAP
WAP
WAP
THOP
THOP
NOOOOO!

I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SUCH A DAWDLER!
I KNOW YOU LIKE TO TAKE THINGS AT YOUR OWN PACE, BUT .
YES YOU DID, LET'S MOVE ON, BIANCA
CHEREN! I LOST! WAHHH...
WE HAVE TO WARN HIM TO TAKE EXTRA GOOD CARE OF HIS POKÉDEX— BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT'S STILL WORKING.
COME ON! WE HAVE TO CATCH UP TO BLACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
CHEREN, LOOK!
OH!
BUT YOU KEEP GETTING SIDE TRACKED! WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO STOP AND BATTLE EVERY WILD POKÉMON WE RUN INTO! WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO!
WE'VE REACHED STRIATON CITY. LET'S GO! HURRY UP!

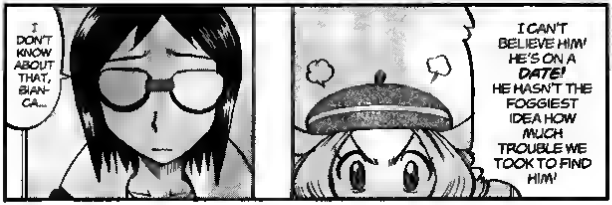
UM... EXCUSE ME
CAN I HELP YOU?
"I'M GOING TO THE POKÉMON LEAGUE! AND I'M GONNA WIN!!!"
"I AM SO TOTALLY ABSOLUTELY GONNA WIN THAT TOURNAMENT!!!"
BY ANY CHANCE, HAVE YOU SEEN A BOY WHO SHOUTS SLOGANS LIKE THAT?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I HAVE...

HE WAS WITH SOME POKÉMON. HE SHOUTED THOSE WORDS EXACTLY! AND THEN HE ENTERED THAT BUILDING OVER THERE.


HEY!
LOOKS LIKE A RESTAURANT...

WE'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO HIM.
NO, THANKS TO YOU BIANCA...
GREAT! THANK YOU VERY MUCH MA'AM!

THERE'S BLACK!
OH! HE'S HAVING TEA WITH... A GIRL!

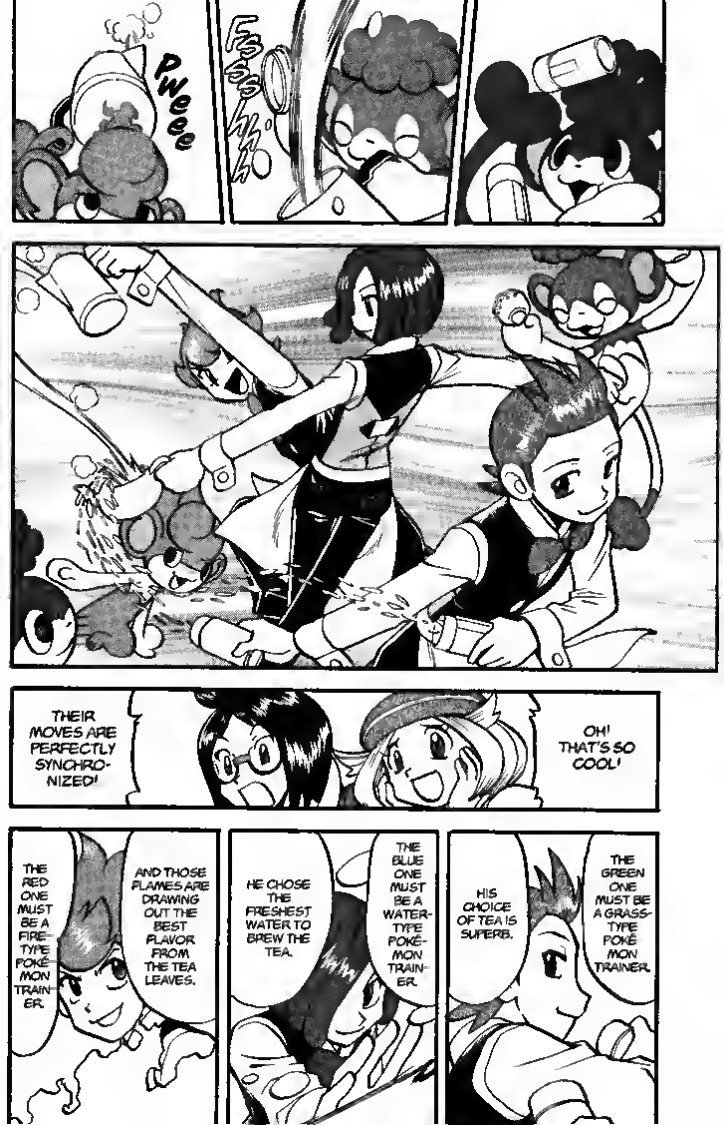

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BIANCA...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM! HE'S ON A DATE! HE HASN'T THE FOGGIEST IDEA HOW MUCH TROUBLE WE TOOK TO FIND HIM!

A DATE TO ME!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE...

WEL-COME!
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS! WE'VE GOT TO TALK TO BLACK!
WHO IS THAT GIRL ANY-WAY?! LET'S FOLLOW HER, CHEREN!
THE FULL-COURSE MEALS ARE-
menu
OUR SPECIALTY IS A RANGE OF DISHES ESPECIALLY TAILORED TO THE DISCRIMI-NATING POKÉMON TRAINER'S TASTE.
OH!
WE'RE JUST HERE TO SEE A FRIEND.
NO THANKS
LONG TIME NO SEE!!
HEY! CHEREN! BIANCA!

WH-WHO WAS W-WHAT...?
DON'T YOU "LONG TIME NO SEE" ME, BLACK! WHO WAS THAT GIRL?!
WHAT?!
SOMEHOW I ENDED UP WORKING FOR HER... AND NOW WE TRAVEL TOGETHER!
OH! THAT'S WHITE. SHE RUNS A TALENT AGENCY FOR POKÉMON THEY PERFORM IN MOVIES AND TV COMMERCIALS AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
HUH? WHAT'S NOT TO GET?
ME NEITHER.
I DON'T GET IT. NOT ONE BIT.
LET'S TOSS HIM OUT.
THAT CUSTOMER WITH THE CAP HAS BEEN GETTING INTO A LOT OF ARGUMENTS WITH OUR PATRONS.

WE'D BETTER SHOW HIM SOME HOSPITALITY.
AFTER ALL, HE DID MAKE A RESERVATION FOR A FULL-COURSE SERVICE.
TAKE IT EASY..
BOm!!
BOm
BOm
OUR APOLOGIES FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING
WE'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU SOME TEA BEFORE YOUR MEAL SERVICE BEGINS.
krkl krkl
MR. BLACK...?

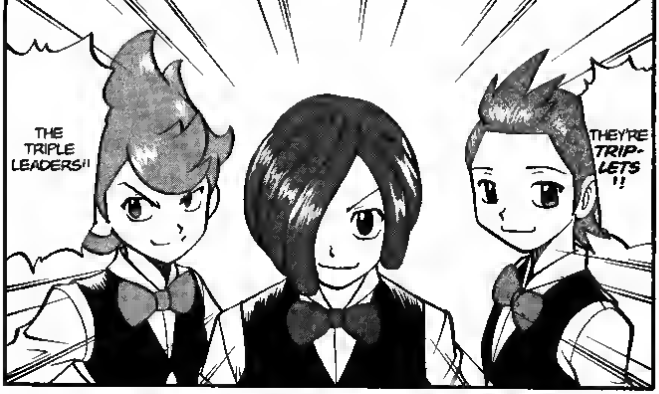

PWEEE
FSSSHH
THEIR MOVES ARE PERFECTLY SYNCHRONIZED!
OH! THAT'S SO COOL!
THE RED ONE MUST BE A FIRE-TYPE POKÉMON TRAINER.
AND THOSE FLAMES ARE DRAWING OUT THE BEST FLAVOR FROM THE TEA LEAVES.
HE CHOSE THE FRESHEST WATER TO BREW THE TEA.
THE BLUE ONE MUST BE A WATER-TYPE POKÉMON TRAINER.
HIS CHOICE OF TEA IS SUPERB.
THE GREEN ONE MUST BE A GRASS-TYPE POKÉMON TRAINER.

A CUP FOR YOUR FRIENDS AS WELL
I'VE NEVER DRUNK ANY THING SO FLAVOR FUL IN ALL MY LIFE!
IT'S DELI CIOUS!
YAHOO!

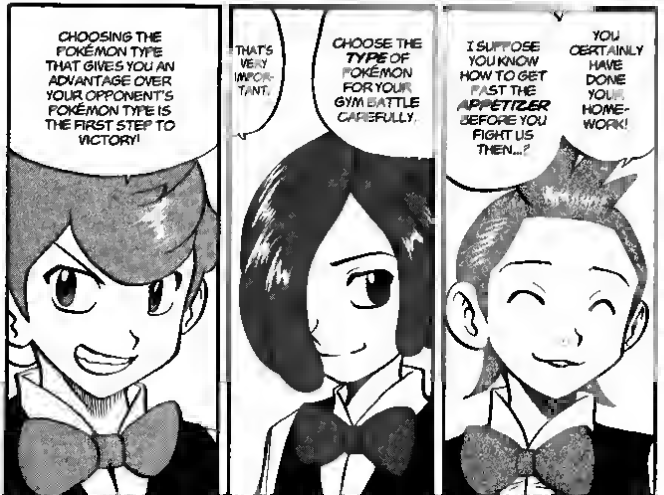
I'VE BEEN WAITING AND WAITING FOR...
...THE TEA TO BE SERVED!
W-WHY S THAT, BLACK?
THE TEA SERVICE IS THE SIGNAL THAT THE FULL-COURSE SERVICE IS ABOUT TO START IN OTHER WORDS...
KLA TTER
IT'S THE SIGNAL FOR THE GYM BATTLE TO START!!

PRE CISELY!
TUS!
BINGO

SH-
SHFF
STRIATON GYM! YEP!
G-GYM BATTLE..? YOU MEAN THIS RESTAURANT IS THE—
ALL OF THOSE THREE!
NOT ONE OF THOSE THREE!
NOPE!
AND ONE OF THOSE THREE IS THE GYM LEADER?


THE TRIPLE LEADERS!!
THEY'RE TRIP-LETS!!

I'VE BEEN RESEARCH-ING ALL THE GYMS FOR AGES, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S THE TWIST AT THE STRIATON GYM.


CHOOSING THE POKÉMON TYPE THAT GIVES YOU AN ADVANTAGE OVER YOUR OPPONENT'S POKÉMON TYPE IS THE FIRST STEP TO VICTORY!
THAT'S VERY IMPOR-TANT.
CHOOSE THE TYPE OF POKÉMON FOR YOUR GYM BATTLE CAREFULLY.
I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW HOW TO GET PAST THE APPETIZER BEFORE YOU FIGHT US THEN...?
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE DONE YOUR HOME-WORK!

IN THIS GYM...
YOU HAVE TO PUSH THE BUTTON ON THE FLOOR THAT MATCHES THE POKÉMON TYPE WITH AN ADVANTAGE OVER THE POKÉMON TYPE ON THE CURTAIN. THAT'S HOW YOU GET TO THE NEXT STAGE OF THE CHALLENGE.
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE BACK.
THE MAIN COURSE WILL BE YOUR BATTLE AGAINST US.
IF YOU MAKE IT THAT FAR.
GOT IT!
THE SYMBOL ON THE CURTAIN STANDS FOR WATER! THE POKÉMON TYPE THAT'S STRONGEST AGAINST WATER WOULD BE—
FIRE!
STOMP
Aghhhh!

BLEEEP
WHAT IF YOU GET ME DISQUALIFIED FOR LETTING SOMEONE ELSE SOLVE THE PUZZLE FOR ME?
THIS IS MY GYM BATTLE!
WELL, FIRE EVAPORATES WATER, SO I THOUGHT A FIRE-TYPE WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OVER–
WHY DID YOU DO THAT, BIANCA?!
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
OOPS!
TUGG
WOBBLE WOBBLE
BIANCA!!
BLEEEP
UMM... AT LEAST IT'S THE CORRECT ANSWER!

OR ELSE...
WHAT?!
BOOM
CUT IT OUT, BIANCA! STAY OUT OF MY BATTLE OR ELSE...
KRASH
SLAP WHAP SMAK THUMP
BLACK!
EEK!
NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU OPENED YOUR POKÉ BALL! BUT YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GYM BATTLE!

LET'S OPEN IT
ALL RIGHT!
THE MORNING WE WERE GOING TO RECEIVE OUR POKÉMON, YOU RUSHED AHEAD AND OPENED THE BOX WITHOUT US, REMEMBER?!
I COULDN'T WAIT..
OKAY, CLEARLY BIANCA IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY AT FAULT HERE... BUT DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO US AS WELL..?
F-FOR REAL?
THEY BROKE! BOTH OF THEM! AND WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR THEM TO GET REPAIRED.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO THE OTHER TWO POKÉDEXES THAT GOT DRENCHED IN THE CHAOS THAT ENSUED...?!
AND THAT'S HOW PROFESSOR JUNIPER'S LABORATORY GOT TRASHED...
TO TOP IT OFF, YOU DIDN'T EVEN THANK PROFESSOR JUNIPER FOR GIVING YOU THIS OPPORTUNITY! AND THEN YOU TOOK OFF WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE TO ANY OF US!
YOU WEREN'T THE ONLY ONE LOOKING FORWARD TO SETTING OUT ON YOUR JOURNEY WITH YOUR POKÉDEX! BUT THANKS TO YOU, WE WEREN'T ABLE TO START ON TIME!
ER...
UH...

I REALIZE YOU WERE REALLY EXCITED THAT YOUR DREAM WAS FINALLY COMING TRUE AFTER NINE LONG YEARS...
AND I'M GLAD YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR JOURNEY...
BUT..
..YOU NEED TO CONSIDER THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU TOO!
YOUR POKÉDEX IS THE ONLY ONE THAT'S FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.
PROFESSOR JUNIPER ASKED US TO WARN YOU TO BE VERY CAREFUL WITH IT.
WE CAME AFTER YOU TO PASS ON HER MESSAGE.
DING DONG! DING DONG!
BECAUSE SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE CHALLENGER PARTICIPATED IN THE TEST...
..YOU ARE HEREBY DISQUALIFIED!

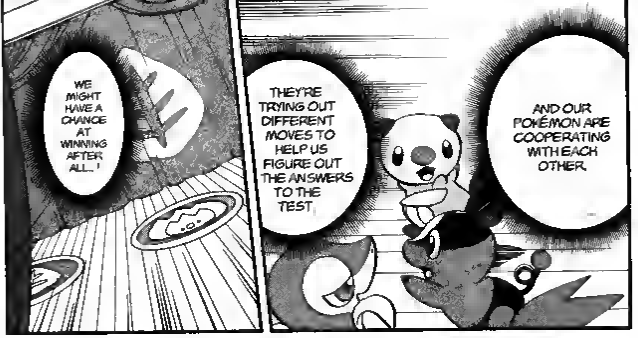
WE AREN'T THAT STRICT. WE'D NEVER DISQUALIFY SOMEBODY OVER A TRIVIAL THING LIKE THAT. AHA HA HA!
AGH! I KNEW IT.
BONK!
JUST KIDDING!!
WHY DON'T YOU THREE TEAM UP? SHE CAN LEARN AS YOU GO ALONG.
SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE BASICS SHE'S HOPELESS
...DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE ABOUT POKÉMON TYPE COMPATIBILITY, DOES SHE?
BUT YOUR FRIEND...
SOB...
BUT...
OUR GYM RULE IS THAT YOU HAVE TO FIGHT ONE OF US AFTER YOU PASS ALL THE TESTS.
IT'S OKAY
WAIT A MIN-

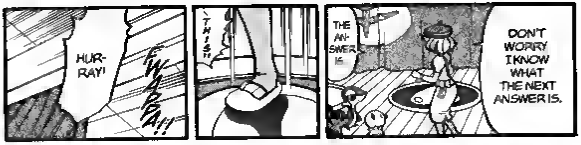
DO... WHAT?
...WE'RE WILLING TO DO IT IF ALL THREE OF YOU GET HERE.
...POKÉMON BATTLE!
FIGHT A THREE AGAINST THREE...
...
BIANCA!
SEE YA! I HOPE
KLK

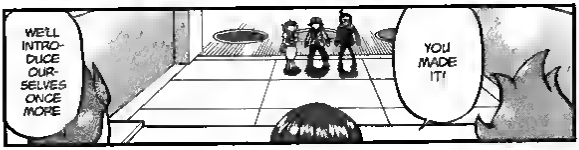
TEP.. EMBER!
HUH? O... OKAY
WATCH HOW TEP AND SNIVY'S ATTACKS WORK AGAINST OSHAWOTT.
UH-HUH I GUESS SO
SEE? IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
FOSH!!
NOW DO YOU GET IT?
OH, DEAR! HANG IN THERE, OSHA-WOTT!
VINE WHIP!
SWAP
NEXT UP— SNIVY.
SINCE WATER IS A SOURCE OF NUTRITION FOR GRASS,— IMAGINE THE GRASS-TYPE POKÉMON SIPHONING OFF THE WATER-TYPE'S STRENGTH
GRASS IS EFFECTIVE AGAINST WATER.
I GET IT, I GET IT!

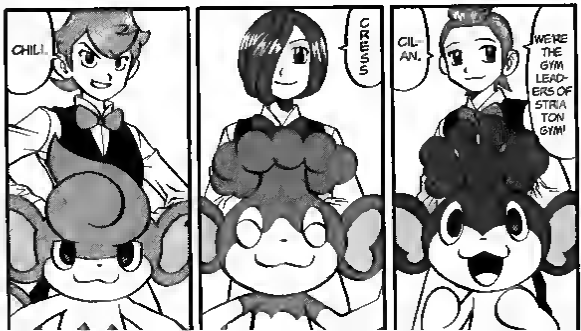
C'MON, LET'S GO!
THE GYM LEADERS ARE WAITING FOR US TO REACH THEM. WE'LL GO TOGETHER
BIANCA! YOU KNOW THE ANSWER NOW, DON'T YOU?
STEP ON THE BUT-TON.
OKAY!
Ding ding ding ding !!!
THE AN-SWER IS
GRASS !
STOMP
FW-FWOOP...

BLACK'S CO-OPERATING WITH BIANCA.


WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE AT WINNING AFTER ALL...!
THEY'RE TRYING OUT DIFFERENT MOVES TO HELP US FIGURE OUT THE ANSWERS TO THE TEST.
AND OUR POKÉMON ARE COOPERATING WITH EACH OTHER.


HURRAY!
FWAAA!!
THIS?!
THE ANSWER IS
DON'T WORRY. I KNOW WHAT THE NEXT ANSWER IS.


WE'LL INTRODUCE OURSELVES ONCE MORE.
YOU MADE IT!


CHILI.
CRESS.
CILAN.
WE'RE THE GYM LEADERS OF STRIATON GYM!

...WHO USE GRASS-TYPE, WATER-TYPE AND FIRE-TYPE POKÉMON...!
TRIPLET GYM LEADERS...
AND WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?
CHEREN.
BLACK.
I'M BIANCA.
TIME FOR THE MAIN COURSE. A THREE AGAINST THREE GYM BATTLE!!
LET'S BEGIN!!